

Will they attack Republicans for Republican extremism, a charge we have heard from the other side thousands of times since 1995 when Republicans took over the majority in Congress? Once again, will the media help them fix this image in the public's mind?

DEMOCRATS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, why is it so difficult for the other side to accurately describe the Republican tax relief package? Do we need to offer a prize to the first Democrat to acknowledge that we set aside \$2 for Social Security and Medicare for every \$1 of tax relief.

Do we need to call 60 minutes and ask them to do a story on the first Democrat to admit that our budget contains \$2 trillion in debt reduction over the next 10 years.

Do we need to have a CBO analyst conduct seminars in their offices in order to prove that our budget sets aside 100 percent of retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare?

Do we need to hire interns fresh out of college to draw a picture of the Social Security lock box in order to illustrate the concept of locking away the Social Security surplus?

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, what does it take?

Day after day I hear the exact same line, the same false rhetoric to describe a Republican proposal that does not exist. Two years ago, it was Mediscare, and now this. It is truly sad.

BALANCED BUDGET AND PAYING DOWN THE NATIONAL DEBT: DREAMS COME TRUE

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress about 8 years ago, I had a dream of a balanced budget. That dream has now come to reality. And then, I had a dream that maybe we could pay down our national debt, and that is happening also.

We should be proud of what we are doing with our budget. But there are some problems and some things that could happen along the way which might make us get off track. Let us remember that we got to the balanced budget because we limited spending, reformed welfare, and made our government operate more efficiently. If we allow spending to move out of control, if we discard the caps, we will dispose of the surplus not in tax relief, not in paying down the debt, but in a bigger Federal Government.

The debate which we are going to have about tax relief should include a

debate on spending controls and on debt reduction.

CLASS WARFARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, tax cuts for the rich. How often have you heard it from the Democrat party? Their big battle cry of class warfare.

Well, let us look at who is the rich. As I look at the tax package, the tax reduction package, who is going to benefit? Well, you might be rich if you want to save for your children's education. You might be rich if you have two incomes in your household. You might be rich if you want to have health care insurance.

You might be rich if your company or union contributes to a pension fund. You might be rich if you save for your retirement. You might be rich if you have a wedding ring in your future. You might be rich if you have saved money and want to be in a position to pass it on to your children when you die.

You might be rich if you are a senior who wants to continue working after the age of 65. You might be rich if you care for a senior in your home, and you might be rich if you have a child in daycare.

The tax reduction package is aimed specifically at helping people who fall into these categories. The marriage tax relief, estate tax relief, health care tax credit. All of this is designed for middle America.

It is a shame that the President and the Democrat party want to bring a tax reduction debate down to class warfare.

DO-NOTHING DEMOCRATS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the do-nothing Democrats are at it again.

First, the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) let the Washington Post in on his strategy to do nothing and take the Democrats out of the legislative process. Now we find out that the Democrat leadership and Education Secretary Riley have been working feverishly behind the scenes to stop the education bill that will be considered later today because of their politics.

The Democrats are divided and confused. The do-nothing Democrats have become the have-nothing party. They have no ideas; they have no solutions. They only have partisan, risky, political schemes.

While Democrats fight among themselves, the Republican majority is united in its commitment to work overtime on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats did nothing, we passed Social Security

lockbox legislation to ensure retirement security for our seniors. While the Democrats did nothing, we passed ballistic missile defense to protect our national security. While the Democrats did nothing, we passed the Y2K liability reform. While the Democrats did nothing, we will pass education reform today that puts better qualified teachers in the classrooms. And while the Democrats do nothing in the very near future, Republicans will pass real tax reform for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, history will regard this Congress as one of the most productive in recent times. These same historians will report that we did all of these great things without any help whatsoever from the do-nothing Democrats.

WHO OWNS THE BUDGET SURPLUS?

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the President said something recently that captures perfectly the attitude of liberals when it comes to their high-tax agenda. While in Buffalo, New York, the President spoke about what should be done with the projected budget surpluses over the next 15 years. He said, we could give it all back to you and hope you spend it right. But, hope you spend it right. Excuse me? What exactly does the President mean when he says hope you spend it right. It is the budget surplus, which is nothing more than a tax overpayment. It does not belong to Washington. It does not belong to politicians. It does belong to the people who sent that money to Washington in the first place.

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It belongs to the taxpayers. They earned it. It belongs to them. Yes, they can be trusted to spend it any way they want.

The idea that the Federal Government, of all things, should be trusted to spend money better than the people who earned it is simply mind boggling.

WHY ARE TAX CUTS THREAT TO BUDGET, BUT NEW SPENDING IS NOT?

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the other side. It is a simple question, and I guess that I will not get an answer, it is so simple.

My question is this: Why is a tax cut a threat to our balanced budget but additional spending is not?

Whenever the Democrats propose new spending programs, which is just about every day Congress is in session, not a word is spoken about what that will do to the deficit.

No mention is made of fiscal discipline or of tough choices that have to